

## Step 1: Measure vital signs and level of consciousness

Glasgow Coma Scale	< 14 or
Systolic blood pressure	< 90 mmHg or
Respiratory rate	< 10 or > 29 breaths/minute (< 20 in infant < one year)

NO

YES

**Take to a trauma center.** Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients should be transported preferentially to the highest level of care within the trauma system.

## Step 2: Assess anatomy of injury

- All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
- Flail chest
- Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
- Pelvic fractures
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis

NO

YES

**Take to a trauma center.** Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients should be transported preferentially to the highest level of care within the trauma system.

## Step 3: Assess mechanism of injury and high-energy impact

- **Falls**
  - Adults: > 20 ft. (one story is equal to 10 ft.)
  - Children: > 10 ft. or 2-3 times the height of the child
- **High-Risk Auto Crash**
  - Intrusion: > 12 in. occupant site; > 18 in. any site
  - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
  - Death in same passenger compartment
  - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury
- **Auto v. Pedestrian/Bicyclist Thrown, Run Over, or with Significant (> 20 mph) Impact**
- **Motorcycle Crash > 20 mph**

*(continued on reverse)*

NO

YES

**Transport to closest appropriate trauma center**, which depending on the trauma system, need not be the highest level trauma center.

#### Step 4: Assess special patient or system consideration

- **Age**
  - Older Adults: Risk of injury death increases after age 55 years
  - Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers
- **Anticoagulation and Bleeding Disorders**
- **Burns**
  - Without other trauma mechanism: Triage to burn facility
  - With trauma mechanism: Triage to trauma center
- **Time Sensitive Extremity Injury**
- **End-Stage Renal Disease Requiring Dialysis**
- **Pregnancy > 20 Weeks**
- **EMS Provider Judgment**

NO

YES

**Transport according to protocol**

**Contact medical control and consider transport to a trauma center or a specific resource hospital.**